Montana Newsletter

Montana State Library

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MONTANA STATE LIBRARY

News

STATE GOVERNMENTS COLLECTION

Montana State Library

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VOLUME 17, NO. 6 NOVEMBER 1988

Gaye Walter, Parmly Billings Children's Librarian, explains to M.L.A. Public Library Retreat participants how to recreate programs including "Good Bear Day" and the Rodeo Reading club. In another class, Miles City Librarian, Gail Wilkerson; Sidney Library Director, Marilyn LeBlond; Hardin Library Director, Sandra Watts and Colstrip Director, Carole Speaks learn about grantwriting.

LSAC HITS MANY TOPICS

The Montana Library Services Advisory Council met in Helena on November first. The Council with the Commissions's approval, accepted the recommendation of the State Librarian to establish a Technology Contingency Planning team which will work with the Technology committee in the next few months exploring options available to Montana for networking and resource sharing.

In other business, the Council approved action of the State Librarian to use unexpended year-end funds for collection development in the institutional libraries in the Deer Lodge valley.

The Council adopted a tentative list of 1990 Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) projects to be sent to the State Library Commission for discussion and approval at its December 14 meeting. The Council will develop intent statements for the individual grants at its winter meeting.

The Council went on record in support of Project Excellence and of the specific rules endorsed by the School Library Media Division of the Montana Library Association.

PUBLIC LIBRARY RETREATS WELL-ATTENDED

Each of the Public Library Retreats, one in Helena on October 21 and 22 and one in Miles City on October 28 and 29 was attended by about 20 participants. The groups included librarians as well as library trustees who were enlightened by workshops on subjects so diverse as budgeting, children's programming, and grant writing. The retreats also gave members of the library community an opportunity to informally exchange ideas and to keep apprised of Montana library news.

MONTANA LIBRARY USERS GET VIDEOS

Many Montana library users can look forward to their libraries featuring some excellent videotapes as part of circulating collections. The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation granted the videotape collections of classic Public Broadcasting System (PBS) programs to 15 Montana Public Libraries as well as the Pathfinder Federation and the Montana Public Library Film Service.

The awards, which included both matching grants and outright gifts, were given to the following libraries: the Bighorn County Library in Hardin, Daniels County

(See "Video" pg. 4)

LIBRARY LITERACY PROGRAMS GROW

Some literacy programs funded by this year's Library Services and Construction Act Title VI literacy grants are just getting underway while others are continuations of Volunteers for Adult Literacy (VAL) projects. There are two new program directors and two who are continuing successful projects.

Cindy Willis is the director of the Polson Library Literacy program, "Polson Adult Literacy." The library program will dovetail with a similar program offered through Salish Kootenai Community College. Willis, who started as a tutor with that program, will work out of other libraries in Swan Valley, as well as Polson.

Nance Fields is the new director of the new "Richland County Adult Literacy Program" in Sidney. Fields is from Billings and was a teacher in Busby. The program is seeking tutors and students. Interested persons should contact Fields at 482-7242.

Janet McMillan was a VISTA volunteer before initiating the Hamilton library Literacy project a year ago. The 1988 Title VI grant supports the growth of the already thriving Bitterroot Public Library program.

Another program that will continue to operate by the grace of a 1988 Title VI grant is the Flathead County Library's. Nance Craft, director of the Kalispell project that began in September of 1987, says that the program is "more successful than we ever dreamed."

The deadline for submission of 1990 Title VI grant applications was November 19th. Libraries who are interested in applying for 1991 grants should contact Sheila Cates at the State Library, 1515 E. 6th, Helena, Mt, 59620, 444-5352.

MPLA TO GIVE GRANTS TO LIBRARIANS...

There are grants available to Montana librarians of which they may be unaware. The Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) provides two kinds of grants through its Professional Development Grants Committee; a regular grant of $500 for members of at least three years and a mini-grant of $100 for members of at least one year.

Grants this year have been awarded in a variety of areas including course work toward a professional library degree, collection development, CD-ROM technology, and the acquisition of management skills.

Cindy Diamond, MPLA Montana Representative, said that there were no grant requests from Montana in 1988. She encourages Montanans to apply for 1989 grants.

MPLA members who have projects they would like funded or continuing education opportunities they don't want to pass up, should request a grant application form from Joseph R. Edelen, Jr., MPLA Executive Secretary, c/o I.D. Weeks Library, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD 57069.

DIRECTORY OUT SOON

A free copy of the 1989 Montana Library Directory with listings for public, school, special, academic and institutional libraries will soon be distributed automatically to all public libraries in the state. The directory will be available to all other libraries free upon request. Persons interested in receiving the directory should contact Diane Gunderson at the State Library, 1515 E. 6th, Helena, 444-5349.

...AND AWARDS TOO

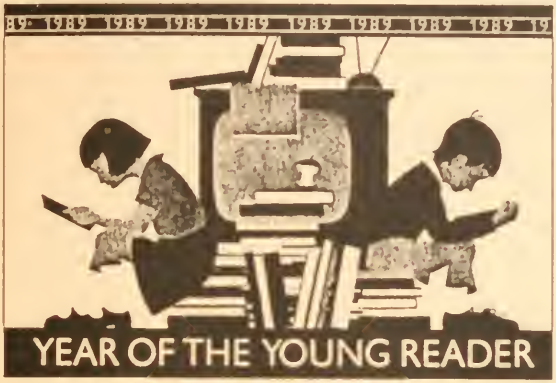
MPLA is seeking nominations for 1989 MPLA awards. The awards will be announced at the joint Montana Library Association (MLA)/MPLA conference April 26-29 in Billings.

The award categories include exhibitor's, distinguished service, legislative research, news media support, literary contribution, and one for beginning professional librarians. Nominations are encouraged from any MPLA member. Detailed explanations of the categories and nomination forms are available from Helen E. Higby, MPLA Awards Committee, Sweetwater County Library System, P.O. Box 550, Green River, WY 82935. Deadline for receipt of completed nominations is January 15.

LAUREL LIBRARY MOVES

The new Laurel Public Library is now in operation. Librarian Peggy Arnold said so many volunteers reported to help that everything was moved from the old building to the new in just two days, October 14 and 15.

An open house and dedication ceremony are planned before the end of the year.



LIBRARY OF AMERICA GRANTS AVAILABLE

The Montana Committee for the Humanities and the Library of America have announced a joint effort to help Montana public libraries with limited resources acquire the Library of America series, a collection of American literature comprising 60 volumes. Each volume contains a number of works by a single author and contains between 1,000 and 1,500 pages.

20 copies of the entire series, valued at $1,350 each, will be available to 20 libraries in Montana for just $250 each. The remainder of the cost will be provided by the sponsoring organizations and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Eligible libraries will have book budgets under $35,000 per year and be open to the public at least 20 hours a week. Libraries that do not meet these qualifications, but who feel they have good reason to apply are encouraged to do so. Branch libraries are eligible.

The grant program will remain in effect only until all funds have been dispersed. For more information about the program or for an application kit, interested libraries should contact The Library of America, 14 East 60th Street, New York, NY 10022. (212)308-3360.

NEW ALA MATERIALS

The American Library Association (ALA), through a grant from the Annenberg/CPB Project, will develop and distribute library resource materials on two Public Broadcasting System (PBS) series; "War and Peace in the Nuclear Age" and "Ethics in America", that begin airing in January.

The resource package includes programming ideas, bibliographies, posters and clip art. Libraries interested in receiving the package should contact the American Library Association Public Information Office, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. (312)944-6780.

The Fall 1988/Winter 1989 ALA Graphics catalog is also available from the same address. Exciting new items available include a poster of William Hurt reading a Dr. Seuss book and a host of Paddington Bear Reading Club materials.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR LIBRARY SCHOOL

Librarians and others who are searching for sources of scholarship funding for master's degree programs in library science should contact Sallie Fenning at the State Library for a list of national scholarships available.

Librarians.

ALA's 45,000 members help each other grow, sharing ideas, experiences and concerns. ALA members are involved in the decisions that will shape the information age and the leadership role of librarians. As the oldest and largest library association in the world, ALA membership provides decision-making opportunities in technology, services and professional development.

Leaders.

You'll receive American Libraries with over 100 monthly job listings, discounts on publications and graphics, reduced registration rates at ALA conferences, eligibility to vote and hold office and eligibility for four group insurance plans.

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Additional information on ALA's divisions and roundtables and how to get the most from your membership will be sent with your membership card.

Send to
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50 East Huron Street
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312-944-6780

A solid community effort in Lincoln raised $16,075 toward building a $73,000 expansion onto the Lincoln Community Library. Lewis & Clark Library Director Debbie Schlesinger and County Commissioner Jim Campbell were joined by about 20 persons, including Lincoln Library Director Sherri Wood, at a groundbreaking ceremony in Lincoln on September 25. It is expected the project will be completed in December.

I.L.L. STUDY WINDS DOWN

Montana libraries do most of their materials borrowing and lending within the state. Subject areas most often loaned to in-state libraries include medical science, general geography and history, social sciences, applied sciences, psychology and fiction.

These are among the preliminary findings of the interlibrary loan committee as reported by Darlene Staffeldt, Montana State Library Information Resources Program Manager, in a brief summary to the Library Commission and to Debbie Schlesinger, State Librarian.

Staffeldt hopes to present the report to the Commission for their approval at the Commission's December meeting.

("Video" cont. from 1)

Library in Scobey, the Colstrip Bicentennial Library, the Hearst Free Library in Anaconda, the Blaine County Library in Chinook, and the public libraries in Laurel, Livingston, Billings, Glasgow, Sidney, Miles City, Glendive, Butte, Bozeman and Missoula.

Titles in the package of over 200 hours of programming include "A Walk through the 20th Century with Bill Moyers," "American Short Story," "The Constitution," "The Brain," "Great Performances," "Vietnam: A Television History," and several others.

STATE LIBRARY 800 # REMINDER

The Information Resources staff would like to remind librarians that the State Library toll-free reference number is only to be used by librarians without the resources to answer their users' reference questions and not by the library users themselves. The number is 1-800-338-5087.

Montana State Library has had some changes in staff. As of this writing, the search for the State Librarian has been narrowed to five candidates. By the time this newsletter is dispersed one of the candidates will have been offered the position.

Barbara Ridgway, who was serving as Acting Director of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, accepted the position permanently.

The Library Development division has a new administrative assistant, Diane Gunderson. She most recently worked with the Faxnet Project.

The Natural Resource Information System has a new computer programmer, Jim Senkler.

Montana State Library Commission

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C. E. Abramson, *Vice Chair*
Missoula
Dr. Henry McClernan
Butte
Martha B. Davis
Dillon
Noreen Alldredge
Bozeman
Marie Thompson
Billings
Victoria Braaten
Big Timber

Commissioners' addresses are in the *Montana Library Directory*

Debbie Schlesinger, State Librarian

Sallie Fenning, *Editor & Layout*

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